

MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19

6. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, which comprises aligning of the two fibers in parallel alignment without crossing or twisting said fibers with each other.

5 8. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the fibers are fused using a heat source which is hotter than the heat source used for elongation.

10 9. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein by adjusting the degree of fusion between the fibers, a desired shift in the polarization match point is produced.

12. (Amended) Method according to claim 9, [10 or 11], wherein by reducing the degree of fusion, a larger polarization match point spacing is realized.

15 13. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein, when elongating the fused fibers, the heating is carried out by a flame on a torch which can be brushed along the length of the coupling zone to stimulate a larger flame, and by varying the brush width during the elongation, the profile shape and thus the polarization and wavelength properties are modified as desired.

14. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are identical.

20 15. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are dissimilar.

16. (Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 1 to 15] claim 1, wherein more than two fibers are used to produce multiple wavelength couplers.

25 17. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1, wherein the obtained coupler is secured to a suitable substrate and packaged.

19. (Amended) A multiplexing or demultiplexing single mode fiber optic coupler having a narrow channel spacing of a minimum of 0.4 nm, produced in accordance with [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

The present preliminary amendment is made to eliminate multiple dependencies of original claims 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDED CLAIMS 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19

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6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, which comprises aligning of the two fibers in parallel alignment without crossing or twisting said fibers with each other.

*A²*⁵
8. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are fused using a heat source which is hotter than the heat source used for elongation.

A²
9. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein by adjusting the degree of fusion between the fibers, a desired shift in the polarization match point is produced.

A³
12. (Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein by reducing the degree of fusion, a larger polarization match point spacing is realized.

A³
10 13. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein, when elongating the fused fibers, the heating is carried out by a flame on a torch which can be brushed along the length of the coupling zone to stimulate a larger flame, and by varying the brush width during the elongation, the profile shape and thus the polarization and wavelength properties are modified as desired.

A³
15 14. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are identical.

A³
15. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are dissimilar.

A³
20 16. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein more than two fibers are used to produce multiple wavelength couplers.

A⁴
17. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the obtained coupler is secured to a suitable substrate and packaged.

A⁴
25 19. (Amended) A multiplexing or demultiplexing single mode fiber optic coupler having a narrow channel spacing of a minimum of 0.4 nm, produced in accordance with claim 1.